

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for failing to comply with 37 CFR § 1.84(P)(5) by not including reference character 134 (Fig. 2) in the specification.

Paragraph [027] and [033] of the specification has been amended. Paragraph [033] includes reference character 134.

Claim 1 has been objected to by the Examiner because of informalities in lines 5 and 8 of claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to correct the informalities.

Claims 9 and 17 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 9 and 17 have been amended to overcome the rejection.

Claims 1, 2-3, 5, 7, 8 and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Young (U.S. Patent Number 7,058,581).

Young discloses the following in lines 23-35 of column 4.

"Any known third party package delivery service, including but not limited to Federal Express, Airborne, United Parcel Service, the United States Postal Service, any international postal service, and so forth, can be used for return of the product 120 in the return mailer 122. In one embodiment, the choice of the delivery service is made by the provider. The criteria used to select a particular service can include, but is not limited to, the price charged per item returned, availability of drop-off points, traceability of packages, and reliability and availability of a particular service in a particular area. For international locations, any local delivery service can be used, including a foreign postal service."

Young is disclosing that any delivery service including only international postal service may be used for the return of the product in the return mailer. Young does not disclose or anticipate that a meter located in a first country may be charged for delivering business reply mail that is processed by a carrier located in a first country and delivered by a carrier located

in a second country and that the first and second carrier are paid by the senders meter as claimed in claim 1 and those claims dependent thereon.

Claims 4, 6 and 9 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young, U.S. Patent Number 7,058,581 in view of Connell et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,554,842.

Connell et al. discloses the following in lines 56 of column 2 – lines 14 of column 3.

“The present invention overcomes the disadvantages of the prior art by providing a postal indicia that is more versatile. The postal indicia contains more security information which is bit map generated. The new class of indicia will have) information based security features calling for appropriate sampling and verification. The invention may also contain markings thereon which may be used for improved sorting and handling of specialty mail pieces. For instance, the markings on the indicia may be used for the sorting of first class mail, specialty mail, out of state mail, local mail, presorted international mail etc. The foregoing will make the handling of the mail faster and more efficient. The new indicia contains: a dollar amount; the date that the postal indicia was affixed to the mail piece; the place the mail piece was mailed from; the postal meter serial number; and additional encrypted security information. All information and graphics shown in the indicia may be printed by any bit map generated printing technology like ink jet, thermal transfer, .laser, etc. The inks and toners used to print the indicia could be luminescent or non luminescent. One of the inks that could be used to print the indicia is an ink that is fluorescent and phosphorescent at the same time. Thus, it is more difficult to print fraudulent copies of the indicia. Current desk top printers and color photocopiers are not capable of duplicating fluorescence and phosphorescence at the same time.”

Connell discloses only one postal indicia that includes the amount of postage for the mail piece.

Young and/or Connell do not disclose or anticipate printing on the business reply mail an indication of the amount of postage charged to the sender's meter for the first carrier's postage, and printing on the business reply mail an indication of the amount of postage changes to the senders meter for the second carrier's postage as claimed in claim 4 as amended.

Young and/or Connell does not disclose or anticipate printing on the item an indication of the amount of postage charged to the sender's meter for the first carrier's postage; and printing on a business item an indication of the amount of postage charged to the sender's meter for a second carrier's postage as claimed in claim 9 as amended.

Claims 11-14 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young, U.S. Patent Number 7,058,581 in view of Connell et al U.S. Patent Number 5,554,842 and Walker et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,978,248.

Walker disclosed the following in column 11, lines 48-52.

"The total number of responses for each mailing list are stored at step 1004. At step 1005, the response rate of each mailing list is calculated corresponding to the test identifier based on the number of test e-mails sent and the number of responses received."

Walker discloses a response rate. Young, Connell and/or Walker taken separately or together do not disclose or anticipate indicating on the items the amount of business reply mail pieces that may be returned to the sender as claimed in claim 11.

Claims 15-16 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young, in view of Connell and Walker and further in view of Baer et al. (U.S. Patent Number 4,999,481).

The foregoing patents do not disclose or anticipate the steps of claim 1 as amended, are previously described.

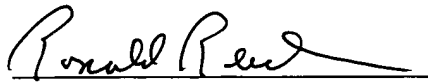
Claim 17 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young in view of Fredman, U.S. Patent Number 6,526,393.

The foregoing patents do not disclose or anticipate the invention claimed by Applicant in claim 1 as amended.

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In view of the above claims 1,2, 4, 7-17 as amended and new claims 18 and 19 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, would the Examiner phone the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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